

judgment in much the same manner that characterizes the person who had too much to drink. He thinks he can drive an 8-foot-wide truck through a 7-foot alley. He can't quite do it. The same kind of judgment impairment affects the person who uses marihuana as well as the more spectacular symptoms.

Chairman BLATNIK. Statements were made several times during the hearings that nine out of 10 times when users or pushers of marihuana were arrested, there also was found in their possession LSD and, very likely, other drugs. Does the use of marihuana necessarily lead to the use of heroin or other opiates?

Dr. BARTON. The answer to that is not clearcut. You can turn it around the other way and say that many users of heroin have been found to be users of marihuana. But it doesn't necessarily follow the other way, that all users of marihuana would go on to use of heroin. At least the evidence at the moment doesn't show it. There is another kind of distressing bit: There are stories of youth going to parties in which they sort of clean out the medicine cabinet; any kind of pill may be part of the thing; they play grab bag; they put their hands in the bag and come out with whatever pill happens to be there and take it. It is sort of a dangerous game of roulette. I use this as a dramatic example of the combination of drugs familiarly seen with the youth of today as they use these drugs.

Chairman BLATNIK. In connection again with marihuana and LSD or heroin, this explanation is sometimes used: Those who are attracted to experiment with something new and exciting and fascinating, or something that puts you into the "in" crowd, once you try that and it is not too bad, it sort of softens you up and sort of conditions you, so you are not quite as afraid to take a further step forward and try LSD or perhaps heroin. Is that a plausible explanation?

Dr. BARTON. That is plausible. I think there is another kind of interesting commentary that I heard made the other day in Chicago, that ours is a drug culture, that 75 percent of all of the drugs that are effective today were not in use a generation ago; that 60 percent of all of the prescriptions filled in the United States are for drugs that affect the mood or somehow or other alter the mind and its functioning. If the parents set the model for the children, there is some reason to think that children turn to drugs perhaps as a way of expressing their alienation and protest.

Chairman BLATNIK. We are not going to change people taking the drugs though, are we, Doctor? Any prospects of reducing the drug output or drug intake by our population?

Dr. BARTON. Not really. I think we are going to keep on developing more precise drugs that tamper with the body physiology more specifically as times goes on. So that the problem of education, therefore, becomes the more crucial. We are going to have more problem, not less.

Chairman BLATNIK. Do you have any opinion as to the reason why—you mentioned why the young take dangerous drugs, this game of roulette you mentioned—they should be taking to dangerous drugs? Is the escape factor a substantial reason for it, escape from the unpleasantness, or what they think is unpleasant in society, as they see it and find it?

Dr. BARTON. Again, I don't think easy answers exist to the problem.